

## Dean's Weekly 24 September 2010

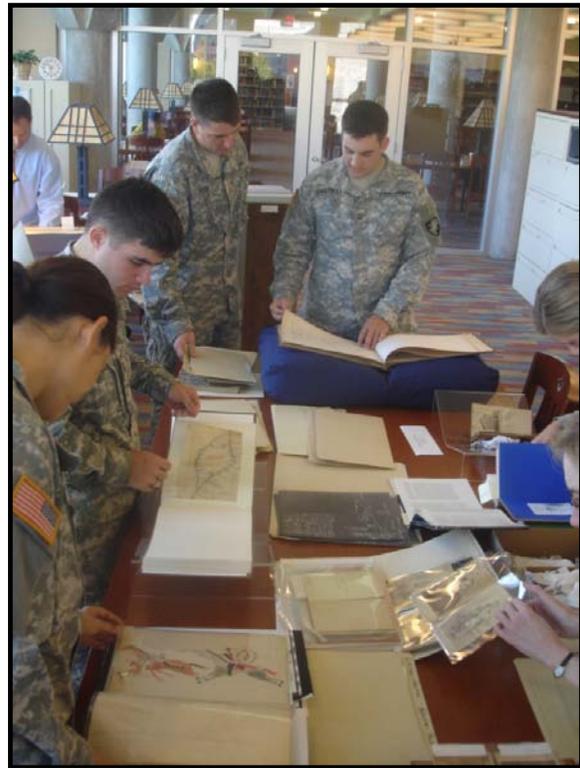
### English and Philosophy

#### Past Events

1. On 16 September 2010, cadets in Dr. Tony McGowan's course on American Portraiture (EP371) visited Jefferson Hall to explore West Point's rich Special Collections and Archives. Dr. McGowan's cadets are currently studying Native American portraiture during the era of resistance and removal.



*Cadet Carlos Cook considers a rare group portrait of captured Sioux, which he found in John Bourke's (USMA 1869) Indian War Diary. The prisoners are seated before General Custer's battle flag.*



*Cadets examine the Special Collections artifacts. In the foreground, Cadet Kayla Kahn looks at a rare instance of Native American ledger art—in this case, an anonymous warrior's battle-scene self-portrait, drawn in colored pencil.*

2. From 14-17 September, MAJ Bob Underwood and MAJ Chris Case served as invited panelists at the "Army Concept Framework Leader Development Implications Seminar," hosted by the Future Warfare Division, Army Capabilities Integration Center. This seminar is one of several events in the Unified Quest program, the Army Chief of Staff's Annual Future Study. This conference series is an ongoing examination of the implications of the paradigm shifts articulated in the Army Concept Framework and the Army Leader Development Strategy. These conferences' findings will inform future operations and leadership doctrine, including new versions of FM 1, FM 3-0 and FM 6-22. MAJ Underwood and MAJ Case are currently writing an Army Chief of Staff White Paper on the Army's Professional Military Ethic. Through collaboration with the Center for the Army

Profession and Ethic and the wider academic community, this work is part of our department's ongoing contribution to developing the Army's Ethic.

3. On 17 September 2010, CDT Brandon Aylor (F4) received the Stillwell Award. This award goes to the PY201 cadet who in writing, discussion, and classroom demeanor best exemplifies the hallmark values of General "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell: intellectual honesty, keen moral insight, and commitment to the professional military ethic. In front of a company formation, CDT Aylor accepted the award from COL Clark of the Simon Center and LTC Imiola, the PY201 Course Director. CDT Aylor was originally scheduled to receive the award last semester at the Commandant's Award Ceremony but was not available due to his early departure for an AIAD.



4. LTC Pete Molin, EN101 Composition Course Director, attended the War, Literature, & the Arts Conference, 16-18 September, hosted by the United States Air Force Academy Department of English and Fine Arts in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The WLA Conference brought together military personnel, scholars, and artists in an important retrospective analysis of Iraq and Afghanistan war-inspired literature, film, and photography. While at USAFA, LTC Molin also conferred with counterparts in the USAFA Department of English and Fine Arts on issues pertaining to composition classes and teaching strategies.



*LTC Molin with Lt Col Jeff Harris, the director of USAFA's first-year writing course.*

5. On Friday, 17 September, the EN101 Composition faculty hosted members of the United States Military Preparatory School (USMAPS) English Department faculty. The visit allowed the two faculties to discuss matters of common concern, such as course vision and structure, evaluation of student writing, and the impending relocation of USMAPS to West Point. Events included a meet-and-greet, a roundtable discussion, a working lunch, and class visitations.
6. On 20 September, the Cadet Philosophy Forum hosted an evening lecture by Professor Steve Kershner from the Department of Philosophy, SUNY College at Fredonia. His topic was "Should Citizens be Grateful to Veterans?" During his lecture, Professor Kershner took the position that citizens do not owe gratitude to veterans. A spirited and informative question-and-answer period with cadets followed Professor Kershner's remarks and capped the evening's activities.



7. On Tuesday, 21 September, the EN101 (Composition) faculty hosted a one-day visit by Ms. Tina Harper, a teacher and educational consultant from Fort Worth, Texas. Ms. Harper was investigating West Point methods and philosophy of instruction as part of her PhD research and her teaching endeavors at Trinity Valley School, in Fort Worth, a school led by BG (USA, Ret.) Gary Krahn, former Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematical Sciences. During her day with the department, Ms. Harper conferred with EN101 and EN302 (Advanced Composition) leadership, participated in an EN102 (Literature) faculty seminar, and observed EN101, EN102, and EN302 classes. Ms. Harper's visit was part of a three-day orientation to West Point sponsored by the Math Department.

### **Future Events**

1. Caroline Alexander will give a lecture in the Haig Room during Dean's Hour this Thursday, 23 September. The title of the talk is "Exploration and Crisis," and it will touch on issues relating to expeditionary leadership, instinct, and professional discipline. Alexander is the *New York Times* best-selling author of numerous books including *The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on the Bounty*, *Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*, and *The War that Killed Achilles*. Her essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *National Geographic*, *Granta*, and elsewhere. Alexander is a guest of the cadets in our department's

senior seminar for English concentrators. The firsties in that class are reading *The Worst Journey in the World*, Apsley Cherry-Garrard's memoir of Robert Falcon Scott's fatal expedition to the South Pole, a book that Alexander has edited.

2. The Department of English and Philosophy's African American Arts Forum will this week host its monthly Jazz and Poetry Night. The event will take place on Friday, 24 September 2010, from 1830 to 2030, in the Haig Room, Jefferson Hall.
3. On Wednesday, 29 September 2010, LIT UNPLUGGED will present a talk for cadets by COL Scott Krawczyk: "The Limits of Duty: From Aeneas to Sam Damon." The event will take place in the Haig Room at 1800. Informal discussion and dinner will follow. LIT UNPLUGGED offers four events a year in the library during which a faculty member talks with cadets about a book that has greatly impacted his or her life. The events are organized by Professor Karin Roffman and the LIT UNPLUGGED committee: MAJ Crystal Hills, Professor Rebecca Wisor, MAJ Damon Durall, and MAJ Maurice Wilson. This will be the first event of the year.